



LIGHTNING AND STARS  
PART ONE OF FOUR ★★★

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# STARMAN

GUEST-STARRING  
THE POWER OF  
**SHAZAM!**



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ROBINSON • HARRIS • VON CRAWFODGER

I know it must seem to you...all of you...even to my son Jack...

...That back in the War years, we America's superheroes, I mean. That we were one big group of gangbusters.

All fists and smiles and heroism, standing side by side to face the Nazi horde.

But that wasn't the case.

Not for everyone. For instance, I had my circle of allies...

And Bullet man had his.

I never took the time to ponder why it was...why our two groups barely ever mixed...

apart from that  
one time

**LIGHTNING AND STARS** ★ PART ONE  
JAMES ROBINSON TONY HARRIS WADE VON OAKLEY / N.J.Q. CHUCK KIM ARCHIE GOODWIN  
writer pencils inker letterers assistant editor editor  
GREG GRAWBADGER WRIGHT colorist  
JACK KNIGHT created by JAMES ROBINSON & TONY HARRIS

**STURM und DRANG**

The Alaskan tundra... where we were... was freezing.

White... all I recall was white... and my fear.

...Fear my lungs would freeze... I feared it more than any goose-stepping jet soldier, that's for sure.

I was lucky. I'd worn one of the special costumes I sometimes employed for unique missions.

This one was insulated. It kept me warm.

But Bulletman...

He didn't seem to need it.

In fact I think he even discarded his jacket in the heat of battle.

I think.

Though to be honest I don't clearly recall.

There were more than enough other things to draw my attention.

Too many.

Too many foes.

If I wasn't careful I might fail to notice one of them...

And that would have been my undoing.

STAR MAN!  
BEHIND  
YOU!

It happened in the time it takes to glance left to right.

A blur. Red and silver.  
A German falling...

...And then on  
with it!



THAT  
WAS  
CLOSE!

I COULD  
HAVE BEEN  
KILLED!

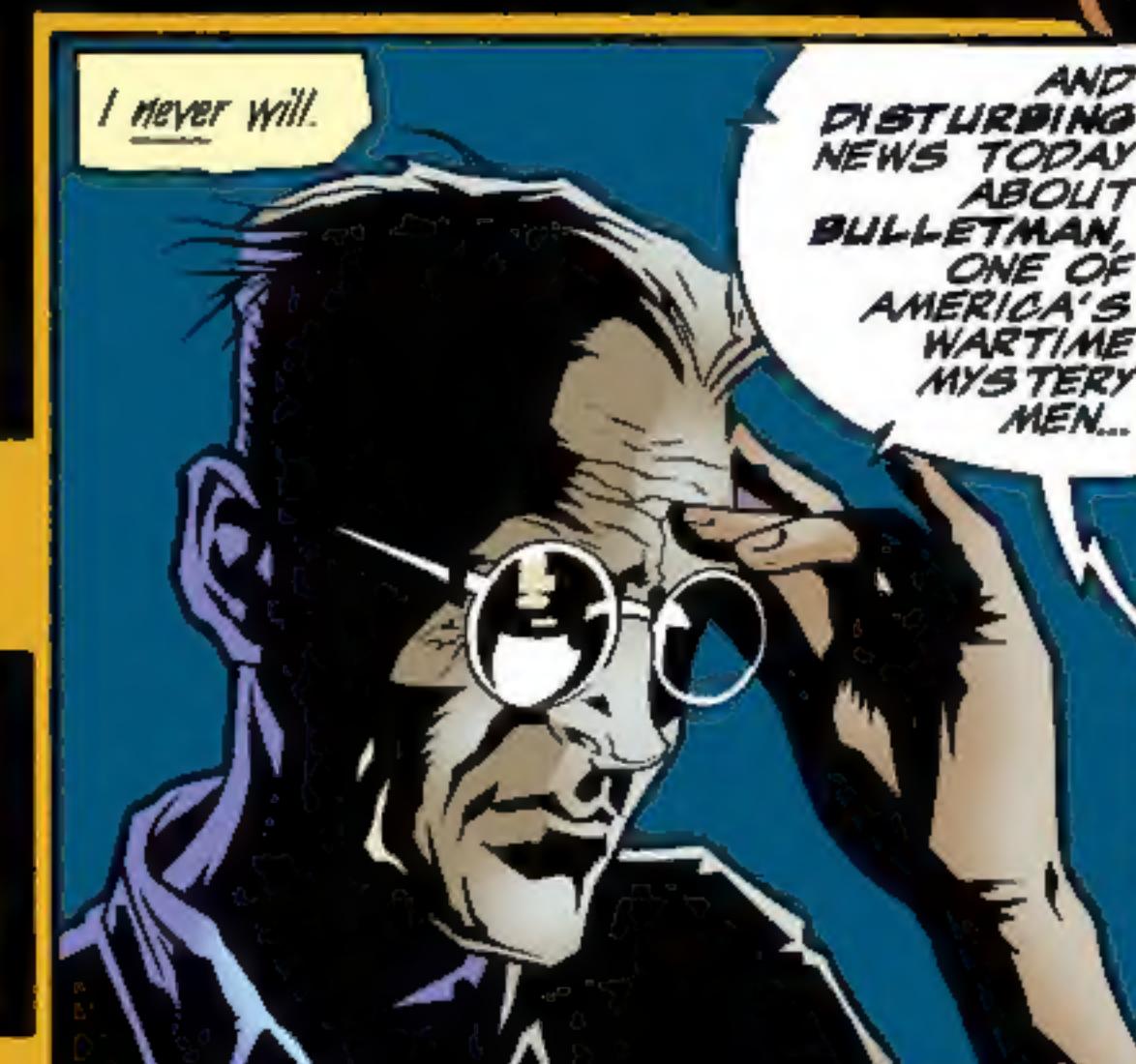
FORGET IT.



Of course I didn't.

I never will.

AND  
DISTURBING  
NEWS TODAY  
ABOUT  
BULLETPERSON,  
ONE OF  
AMERICA'S  
WARTIME  
MYSTERY  
MEN...



...WHICH IF PROVED TRUE, WOULD SUGGEST HE IS AMONG THE GREATEST ENEMY SPIES OF ALL TIME.

NEWS FOOTAGE TAKEN FROM THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JONATHAN CHAMBERS, KNOWN DURING WORLD WAR II AS THE SPEEDSTER SUPERHERO JOHNNY QUICK, SHOWS BULLETPROOF ACTING AS THE COMMANDER OF A TEAM OF ROCKET-POWERED GERMAN SABOTEURS.

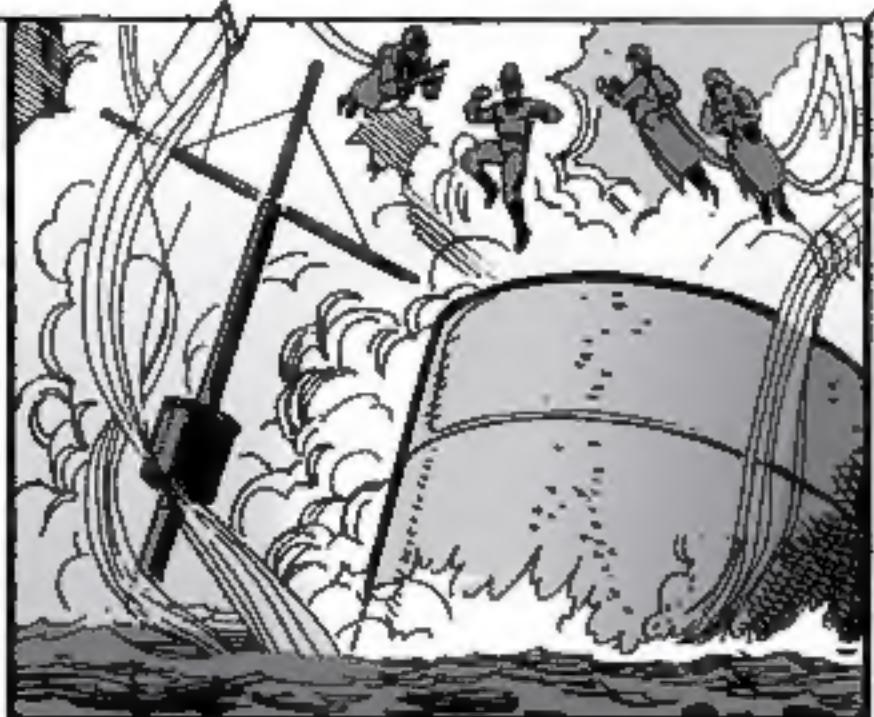
THIS FILM WAS TAKEN IN 1942 DURING THE SINKING OF THE NORMANDIE, THE FRENCH OCEAN LINER DOCKED IN NEW YORK HARBOR PRIOR TO BEING RETROFITTED INTO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER.

AN EXPLOSION ON BOARD sank THE VESSEL AS ONLOOKERS WATCHED IN HORROR.

THE FOOTAGE AT FIRST SHOWED SOME OF THE ALL STAR SQUADRON COMBATING JET-POWERED OPPONENTS, WHO IT WAS BELIEVED WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SABOTAGE.

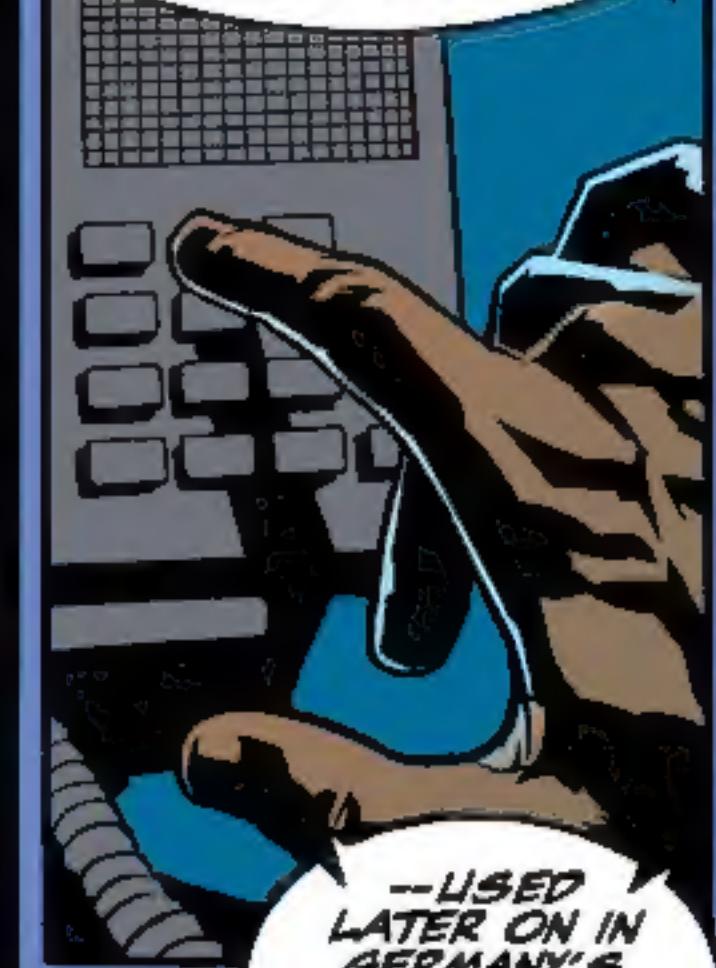
BUT IT IS LATER IN THE FILM, AS THE FIGHT PROGRESSES, THAT BULLETPRINT'S FORM CAN BE SEEN FURTHER AWAY GIVING DIRECTION TO THE NAZIS.

"SCIENTISTS AT S.T.A.R. LABS WERE ABLE TO BLOW UP SECTIONS OF THE FILM USING COMPUTERS, GIVING A POSITIVE ID OF JAMES BARR, THE MAN WHO IN THE 1940s FLEW THE SKIES AS BULLETPRINT."





ALTHOUGH ANOTHER ANONYMOUS CLAIM SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE BARR HAD SHARED HIS TECHNOLOGY WITH VON BRAUN, GIVING THE NAZI SCIENTIST THE DATA NEEDED TO CREATE THE SILENT V2 ROCKETS--



FURTHER CLAIMS WERE THEN LEAKED BY UNKNOWN SOURCES, CITING BARR'S "BULLET TECHNOLOGY" AS BEING DERIVED FROM THE ROCKET SCIENCE OF GERMANY'S VON BRAUN.

--USED LATER ON IN GERMANY'S BOMBING CAMPAIGN OF ENGLAND.



ONE FURTHER ANONYMOUS CLAIM SUGGESTED THAT BARR WAS A DEEP-COVER SPY FOR THE GERMANS, WHO REPORTED BACK TO BERLIN ON SUPERHERO ACTIVITY IN AMERICA.

IN THE TIME SINCE THESE ACCUSATIONS WERE MADE, BARR HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE SECRET SERVICE BUT LATER ESCAPED.

HIS CURRENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN ALTHOUGH A NATIONWIDE MANHUNT IS CURRENTLY...



YES,  
THIS IS TED  
KNIGHT, I'D LIKE TO  
GET A MESSAGE TO  
JACK WESTON.





WHY YOU HERE?  
YOU WANT SOMETHING ELSE ON  
YOU?

NOT TODAY. I'M  
JUST HERE 'CAUSE IT  
FEELS SAFE AND FAMILIAR.  
AN' I'VE BEEN UP TO MY  
NECK IN THE STRANGE AND  
DANGEROUS. THOUGH MY GIRL-  
FRIEND IS THINKING OF GETTING  
SOMETHING, MAYBE SOON. IF  
SHE IS, I'LL BRING HER BY.

WOA,  
HOPALONG.  
WHAT'S THIS  
ABOUT A GIRLY?  
SINCE WHEN YOU  
GOT A STEADY  
THING? YOU  
ALWAYS BEEN  
HIT AND RUN.

I'M CHANGING.  
WHAT CAN I TELL  
YOU? THIS LIFE...I'M  
DIFFERENT.

THAT WAS A  
SURPRISE, YOU AND  
COPS. YOU USED TO  
HATE COPS.

YOU GOT  
A LOAD OF  
POLICE  
FRIENDS NOW,  
I HEAR.

COPS WERE  
AUTHORITY. I  
HATED THAT.  
NOW...

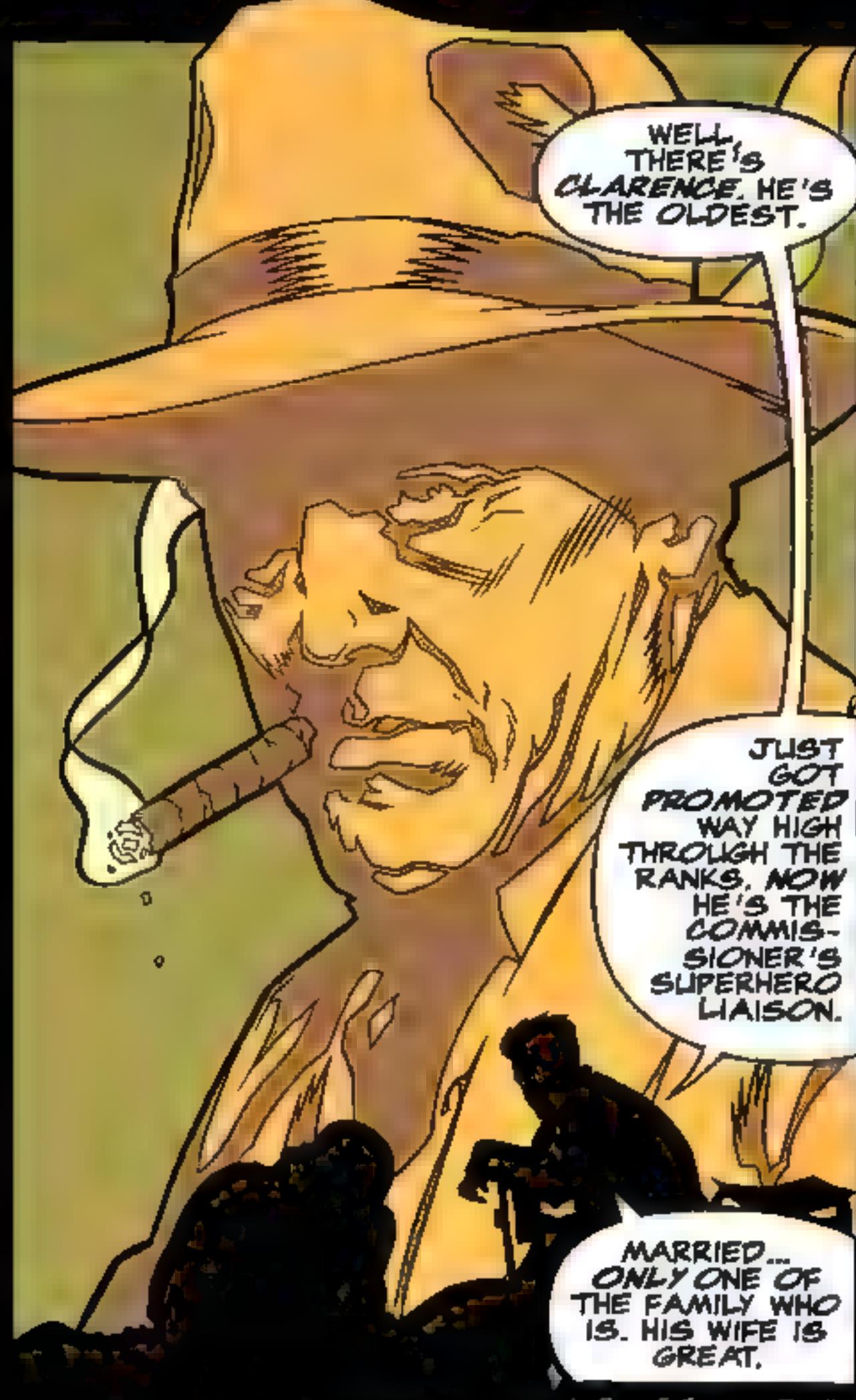
...NOW I  
GUESS I'M  
AUTHORITY.

ANYWAY IT'S NOT  
LIKE I'M FRIENDS WITH  
COPS. I'M FRIENDS WITH THE  
O'DARES IS ALL. BILLY  
O'DARE WAS MY DAD'S  
BUDDY. HIS CHILDREN ARE  
MINE. SIMPLE.

COP'S A  
COP'S A COP  
IS WHAT YOU  
USED TO  
SAY.

YEAH,  
WELL...I USED  
TO SAY A LOT  
OF THINGS.

SO  
WHO ARE  
THEY? THESE  
O'DARES?



DON'T WE ALL?

YEAH, BUT...  
I DUNNO. WITH  
HIM I GET THE  
IMPRESSION  
IT'S ALL ABOUT  
THE "HAVING  
HAD" A WOMAN...  
NOT THE "BEING  
WITH AT THE  
TIME" PART.

YOU JUST  
DESCRIBED  
HALF THE  
MEN  
BREATHING.

YEAH, I  
GUESS I'M JUST  
FROM THE OTHER  
HALF.

AND WITH BARRY,  
I DON'T THINK HE'S A  
COP'S COP. I DON'T  
THINK HE TRULY GIVES A  
DAMN ABOUT THE  
JOB...ABOUT MUCH AT  
ALL FOR THAT  
MATTER.

ANY  
MORE  
O'DARES  
CREEPING  
AROUND?

MATT.

HE THE  
ONE WITH THE  
MUSTACHIOS?  
ALWAYS  
SMOKING?

THINK  
I SAW HIM  
ON THE NEWS  
ONCE. GOOD  
WITH A GUN.

YEAH...HE'S GETTING  
WEIRD THOUGH. STARTED  
ACTING MORE AND MORE LIKE  
HE'S A WESTERNER...YOU KNOW,  
A COWBOY OR A GUNFIGHTER.  
I DUNNO WHAT'S UP WITH  
THAT.

BUT  
YOU LIKE  
'EM  
ALL?

EACH  
IN THEIR  
OWN WAY...ALL  
OF THEM  
EXCEPT MAYBE  
BARRY.

YET  
YOU STILL  
DON'T LIKE  
COPS?

IT'S NOT THAT I  
DISLIKE THEM. IT'S...  
I KNOW I'M THE CITY'S HERO  
NOW. I KNOW OPAL FEELS SAFER  
FOR HAVING A STAR MAN TO FLY  
OVER IT, KEEPING GUARD.

BUT I'M  
NOT SURE  
EVERY COP  
FEELS THAT WAY.

LET ME  
JUST SAY  
THIS...

I CAN'T SEE A  
DAY WHEN THE COPS OF  
THIS CITY WILL EVER  
STAND UP FOR ME.

SADIE.  
SHE'S A  
REAL HONEY.  
KNOWS  
ABOUT OLD  
STUFF...OLD  
MOVIES.

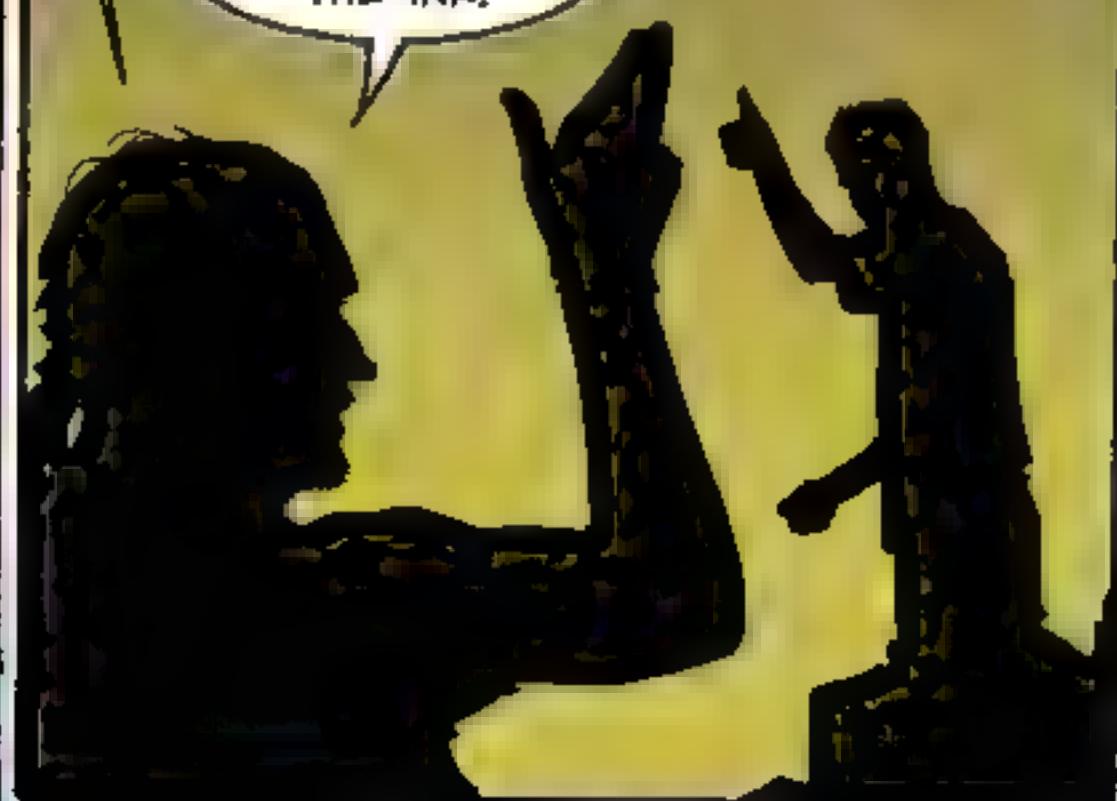
AND...LIKE  
A COP'S WIFE,  
SHE CAN LIVE WITH THE  
FACT THAT I'M OUT  
THERE RISKING MY  
LIFE AND ALL.

YOU  
SOUND  
PRETTY  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT  
HER.

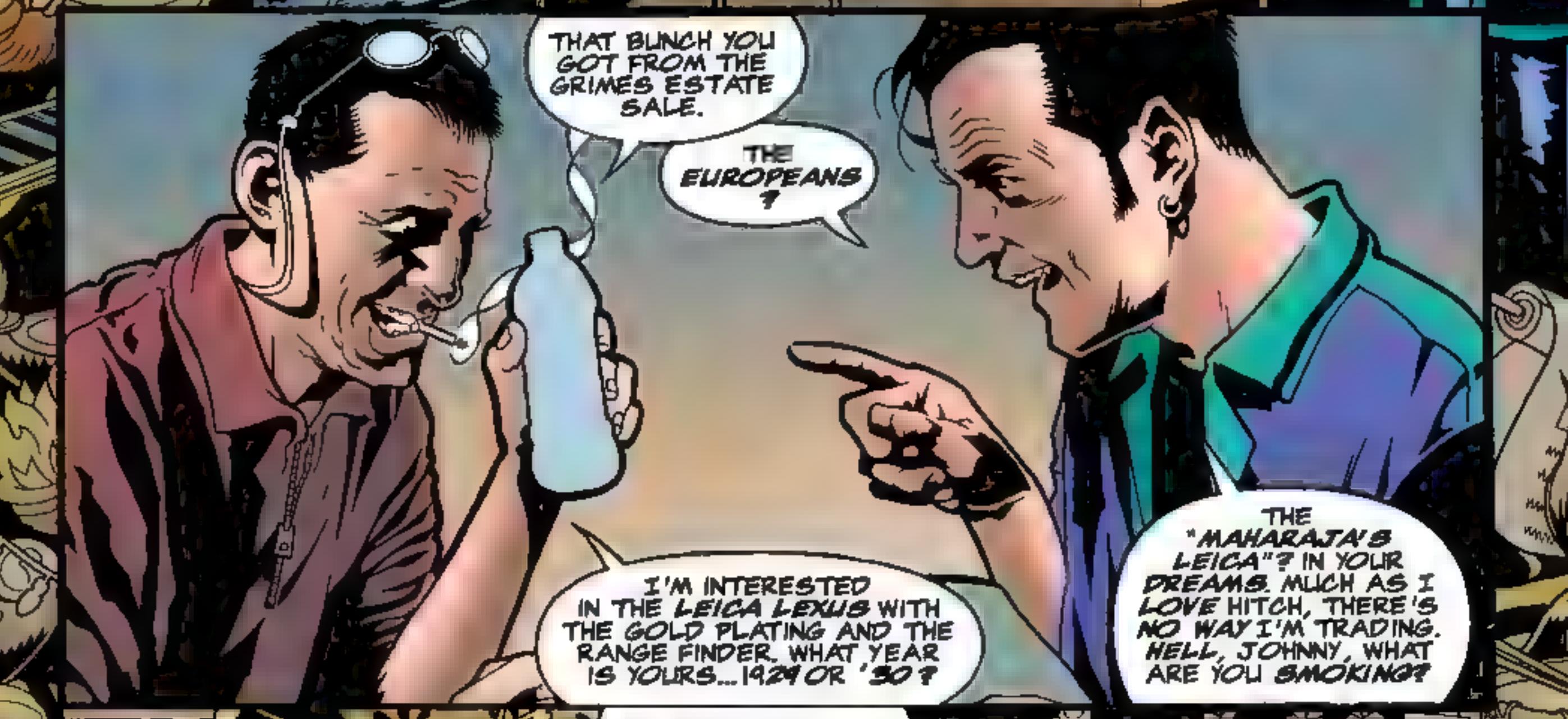
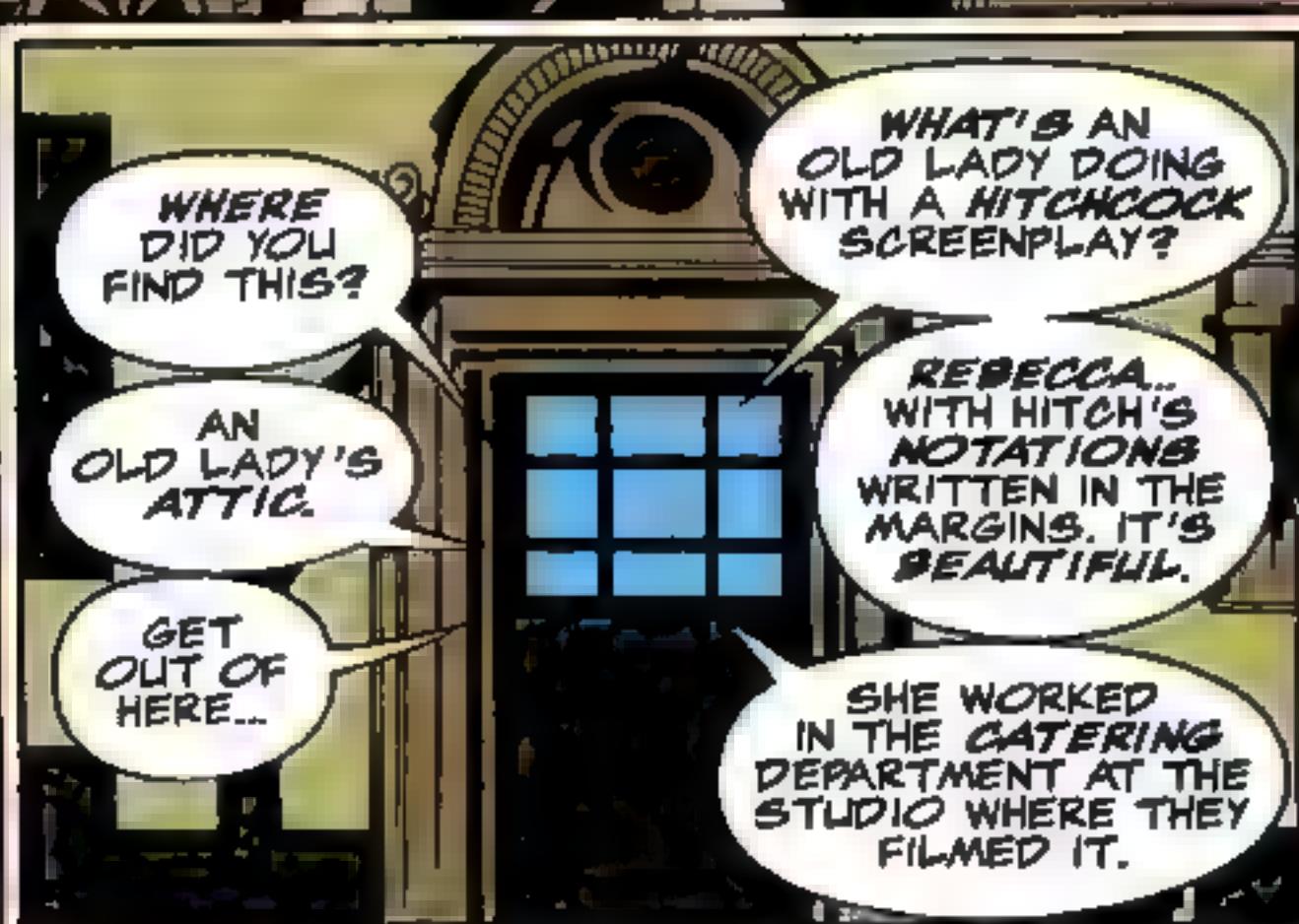
YEAH,  
I GUESS  
I DO AT  
THAT.

GOTTA GO  
MAN. I'LL SEE  
YOU. MAYBE I'LL GET  
SOMETHING ON MY  
BACK...MAYBE THAT  
SHOULD BE MY  
NEXT TAT.

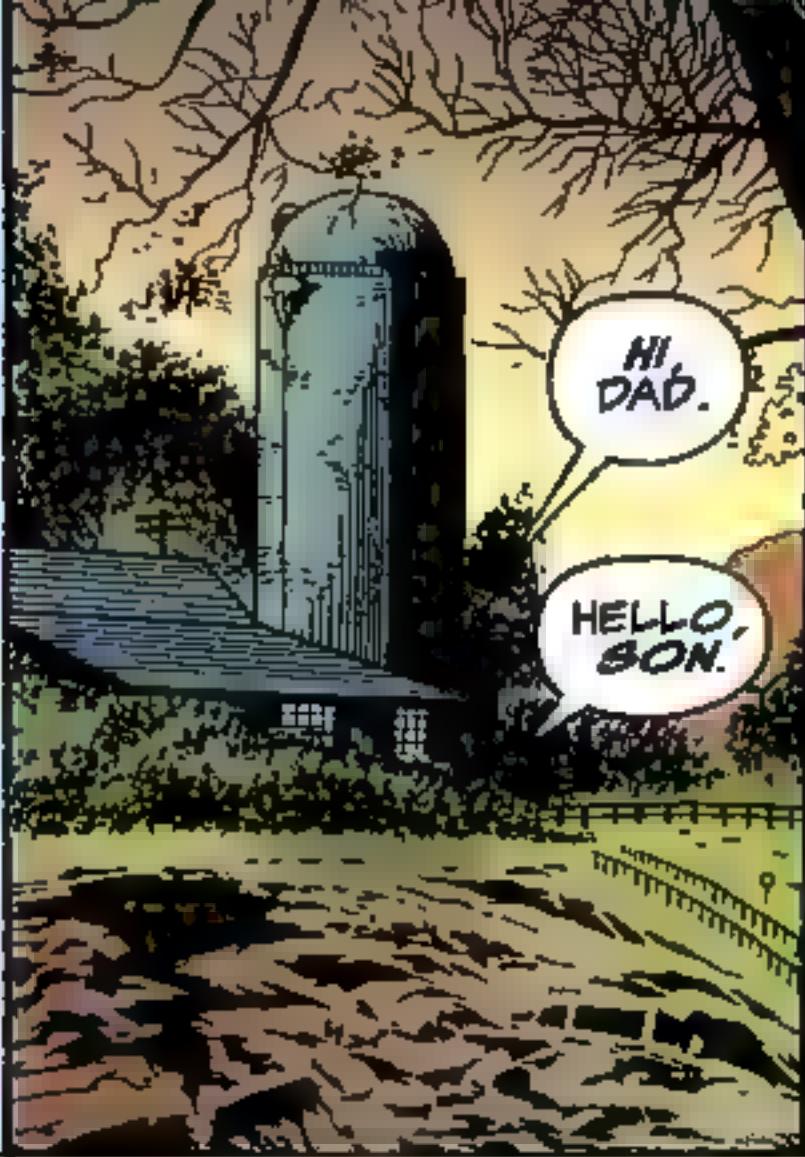
WHEN-  
EVER YOU'RE  
READY. I GOT  
THE INK.



RED OWL







JIM  
BARR...  
NO BELLS.  
I'M SORRY,  
MR. BARR.

HOW  
ABOUT  
BULLET-  
MAN? DOES  
THAT GET  
THEM  
RINGING?

I OPERATED IN  
FAWCETT CITY.

LIKE SPY  
SMASHER AND THE  
TURBANED MAGICIAN...  
WHAT WAS HIS NAME?  
BARGON?

IBIS.

WHATEVER.  
TURBAN AND  
MAGIC. SEEN  
ONE, SEEN  
THEM ALL.

TED...  
...ARE  
YOU  
SURE?

UHH...NOT  
REALLY.

JACK'S IN A GLIB MOOD  
TODAY. THAT'S ALL, ISN'T  
THAT RIGHT, SON?

YEAH, I'M  
SORRY. IT'S JUST...I  
GUESS I'M KIND OF  
EMBARRASSED BY  
NOT KNOWING  
YOU.

HERE'S A PICTURE OF ME  
BACK THEN.

OH, NOW I  
KNOW. I THOUGHT  
YOUR NAME WAS  
ROCKET-MAN.

ANYWAY...

JIM'S IN  
TROUBLE.

TROUBLE?  
BIG OR  
SMALL?

UHH...TREASON. THAT'S  
WHAT HE'S BEEN ACCUSED OF.  
COLLABORATING WITH THE  
NAZIS. THE CLAIMS ARE THAT  
HIS BULLET FLIGHT ABILITIES  
WERE THE PRODUCT OF VON  
BRAUN'S ROCKET  
SCIENCE.

AND THAT SAME ROCKET  
SCIENCE THEN EMPOWERED  
A GROUP OF GERMANS TO  
SINK THE NORMANDIE  
OCEAN LINER.

FLYING NAZIS.  
COOL. LIKE IN A  
REPUBLIC SERIAL  
OR SOMETHING.

NO.  
THERE WAS  
NOTHING  
COOL  
ABOUT IT.

IBIS.



THERE WAS NEWSREEL FOOTAGE UNCOVERED SHOWING ME FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE SABOTEURS.

AND YOU'RE SAYING IT WASN'T YOU?

GODDAMN RIGHT IT WASN'T ME!

LUCKILY JIM HAS AN ALIBI...ME...WHAT WE DID BACK THEN...

ERR...THIS IS WHERE IT GETS COMPLICATED.

AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK ON THE SHIP, JIM AND I WERE ON A MISSION FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

U.S. TROOPS WERE ON THEIR WAY, BUT MOBILIZING A COMBAT TEAM, GETTING THEM AIRBORNE...FLYING THROUGH TUNDRA SNOWS...IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN TOO LONG. THIS WAS A RACE AGAINST TIME.

PLUS, THEY FELT JIM AND ME...OUR KNOWLEDGE OF POWER-ASSISTED FLIGHT MIGHT GIVE US AN EDGE AGAINST THE TEAM OF NAZIS SENT TO GET TO THE RETRIEVAL SITE AHEAD OF US.

WE WERE RACING NORTH...TO RETRIEVE SOMETHING IN ALASKA FOR THE U.S...USING OUR FLIGHT POWERS TO GET THERE AHEAD OF THE GERMANS.

IT WAS MORE JET-POWERED NAZIS.

SOUNDS WILD.

IT WAS.  
JIM  
SAVED MY  
LIFE AT ONE  
POINT.

OKAY, IT SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH. YOU TELL THEM WHAT YOU WERE DOING. DAD, YOU'RE A NOTED PUBLIC FIGURE, WITH YOU AS MR. BARR'S ALIBI, THAT SHOULD CLEAR THE WHOLE MESS UP.

AHH, WELL, THIS IS WHERE JIM AND I DIFFER.

I AGREE WITH YOU, SON. HOWEVER, AT THE TIME OF OUR MISSION WE SIGNED A SECRECY AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IF WE TELL AMERICA THE TRUTH, WE BREAK OUR OATH.

BUT THAT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

JIM REFUSES TO BETRAY HIS NATION'S TRUST.

TO THAT END, WE'RE TRYING TO CONTACT JACK WESTON. HE WAS A HERO CALLED MINUTEMAN... THE GUY MOST CLOSELY LINKED TO THE GOVERNMENT BACK THEN...

...HE'S STILL INVOLVED WITH THEM NOW BUT TO A LESSER EXTENT.

ANYWAY I HOPE HE CAN TALK TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON... GET US THE GO-AHEAD TO GO PUBLIC WITH THE TRUTH.

SO, WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?

TWOFOLD. FIRSTLY, WE CAN'T LOCATE MINUTEMAN. SECONDLY, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HEROES FROM FAWCETT CITY WILL FOLLOW ME HERE AND TRY TO BRING ME BACK.

NOW, REFRESH MY MEMORY, WHO EXACTLY ARE THE HEROES OF FAWCETT CITY NOWADAYS?

THE MARVEL FAMILY.

WE'RE GOING BACK TO FAWCETT. TRY TO SNEAK IN AND UNCOVER ANYTHING WE CAN, WHILE EVERYONE THINKS JIM'S FLED.

SO IF CAPTAIN MARVEL AND HIS CREW TURN UP HERE, YOU WANT ME TO RUN INTERFERENCE?

NOTHING TOO EXTREME, SON. JUST DELAY THEM.

I HEAR THEY HAVE POWER TO RIVAL SUPERMAN'S, SO NOTHING I CAN DO IS GONNA BE TOO EXTREME.

DO YOUR BEST.

NICE MEETING YOU, MR. BARR.

YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE, JACK.

IF YOU SAVED MY DAD'S LIFE, MR. BARR, THEN IT'S YOU WHO HAVE MINE.



IT'S RUMORED  
THAT JIM BARR CAME  
HERE! BULLETPRINT! IF HE'S  
IN TOWN, IT STANDS TO  
REASON YOU'D KNOW  
WHERE HE IS.

SO HAND HIM  
OVER...

...OR FACE  
THE POWER OF  
*Captain*  
**MARVEL**

To read the incidents that led up  
to this moment from Captain  
Marvel's point of view, check out  
The Power of Shazam #35.

Then be back here next  
issue, when Jack and the  
Big Red Cheese get it on!



# Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT  
**AWESOME**  
LOOKS LIKE!"

DCP